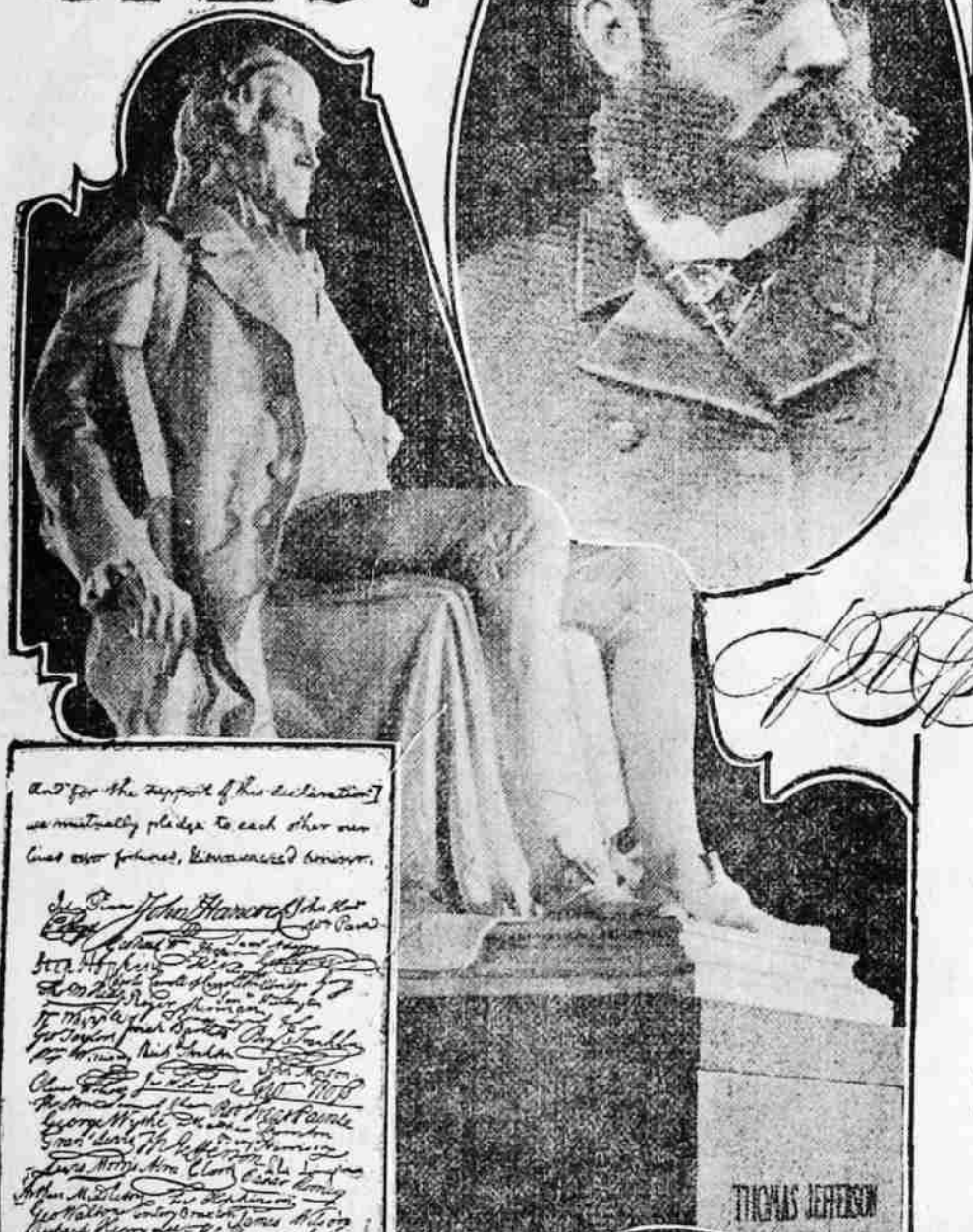


ARE THE GOOD PENMEN ALL DEAD ONES?



and for the support of his education...
 was naturally glad to each other...
 was ever before, (unimpaired) however.

The question for debate is, "Resolved, That our grandfathers wrote better than we and that we write better than our grandchildren will."

In other words, the affirmative side of this question would have us believe writing is a lost art, and they had a better system in the good old days when the children studied the "Three R's" and sat on a slab in the old log school house with its puncheon floors and with a teacher who "larned by lickin'."

The man chosen to debate the negative side of this question is H. B. Lehman, a pupil of the old school, who learned to write under the instruction of P. R. Spencer, the man who first presented a systematic method of penmanship for use in the public schools.

Although Lehman learned under one of the old-time teachers, he is linked to the present in that he is teaching penmanship at Central High School. He is author of several standard works on penmanship and is considered one of the most skillful and efficient teachers in the country.

On this page we are presenting photographic copies of a letter written by P. R. Spencer, representing the old school, and a copy of the same letter written by Lehman to show the style of penmanship now taught. One is no better than the other. The Spencer style is slightly different in the formation of some of the letters and in the shading, but in general appearance is the same.

Lehman has been chosen to present the negative side of this question because he is right in the teaching harness. He agrees with the affirmative in their contention that the best penmanship of a generation ago is as good as it can be, but he is equally emphatic in stating that the best penmanship of today is just as good.

The affirmative side of the question is not given much space here because their arguments are familiar with everyone. Anyone wishing to hear the arguments of the affirmative all over again needs only to go to the nearest cross-roads store where at least one of the men assembled will be able to dilute on the excellent penmanship of the days gone by.

"Mr. President, Honorable Judges, Ladies and Gentlemen," is Mr. Lehman's style of beginning the defense of the question. "I am willing to admit the affirmative is right in many things, but I contend there are more good writers today than there were in the good old days, which is chiefly due to the fact that school authorities are now providing special instruction in the grades and in the high schools."

"One trouble with many writers of the present time is they write



I suppose to have immediately upon your work.

I am in receipt of your letter of the 4th relative to a position in our office. Your letter and testimonials impress us favorably, and we shall be glad to see you at our place of business on Monday next.

Yours truly,
 Jones & Wilson

INDIVIDUALITY IMPORTANT HANDWRITING FEATURE.

Formerly everyone wrote with a slant, which writing was based upon the ellipse as the unit of letter construction. Then came some book publishing companies with the theory that the perfect circle should form the basis of letter construction from which evolved the vertical band. Rapid adoptions were made and for a time nearly every large city and a number of States used the vertical system, but the merits claimed by the publishers did not manifest itself and within a short time the system was discarded. Individuality in handwriting which is a safeguard in the transaction of business with banks and other business institutions in signing commercial papers, etc., finds a natural resource in the slant system of writing, while the vertical style was an easy prey for signature forgers.

School authorities soon learned that for good commercial reasons

725 Grand Street,
 New York, Jan. 5, 1890.

Mr. Robert Burgess,
 550 Fulton St. N. Y.

Dear Sir: - We are in receipt of your letter of the 4th relative to a position in our office. Your letter and testimonials impress us favorably, and we shall be glad to see you at our place of business on Monday next.

Yours truly,
 Jones & Wilson

725 Grand Street,
 New York, Oct. 6, 1914.

Mr. Robert Burgess,
 550 Fulton St. N. Y.

Dear Sir: - We are in receipt of your letter of the 4th relative to a position in our office. Your letter and testimonials impress us favorably, and we shall be glad to see you at our place of business on Monday next.

Yours truly,
 Jones & Wilson



It would be necessary to change again to the slant system of writing. In order to accomplish this transition without ruining the writing of the children the Semi-slant was next introduced.

"Now we are returning to the former style of writing which is naturally easy to acquire, consequently those who learned the semi-slant did not have their writing hopelessly spoiled."

H. B. Lehman Says "No,"
 and Presents a Sample
 of His Own Writing to
 Show the System Now
 Taught in
 the Public
 Schools
 Is Equal to
 Any

are started with the same motion. Flourishing in writing is not necessary. It makes a page look well, but it takes too much time for the average penman. Shading is not important in writing. That is the only thing we have dropped from the teachings of the writing experts of the good old days.

The typewriter is taking away much of the work of the penman, but there is still much work for which penmen are needed. In book-keeping they have not found a machine to take the place of the pen. Men who employ bookkeepers ask two things of their applicants. One is, "Let me see a sample of your writing." The other question refers to the speed. An employer wants his books taken care of rapidly, but when it comes to a question of speed and writing I am sure the one who is a fine writer has the first chance at the position if his speed is moderately good.

"If one believes the handwriting of today is less legible than that of our forefathers, let him examine the penmanship of those who have gone before. Some of the signers of the Declaration of Independence wrote a hand that can hardly be made out. In that day there were many good writers, but we have



that portion of the State having abundant rainfall. In Coal County and other places artesian water is in abundance.

The sale will begin at Stigler and end at Ardmore. There will be approximately 385,000 acres sold in 4,166 tracts and divided as follows: Haskell County, 43,000 acres; LeFlore County, 138,000 acres; Latimer County, 44,000 acres; Pittsburg County, 88,000 acres; Atoka County, 25,000 acres; Coal County, 40,000 acres.

In addition some unsold tracts in Pushmataha, Jefferson, Pontotoc, Johnston, Murray and Carter Counties, as well as about 1,000,000 acres of timber lands in McCurtain, Pittsburg, LeFlore, Pushmataha and Choctaw Counties, will be sold. Thousands of people will probably attend the sale from Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Kentucky and other States. Railroads will probably announce a very low rate for homeseekers who will attend the sale. The lands will be extensively advertised by the government, also by the railroads and an association of many towns has been organized to advertise locally the lands that are adjacent. An organization to advertise the sale in Coal County is being perfected by Boone Williams of Lehigh, who has been president of the association that has worked for years to bring about the sale.

Much of the land is improved and improvements will be sold with the land. It is estimated that the land will produce \$3,000,000 annually in farm products and will contribute materially to the taxable values of the counties and of the State.

UPPER left, P. R. Spencer of the old school of penmanship. At top is sample of his penmanship, written twenty-four years ago and a good example of the best penmanship of a period dating from before the Civil War to twenty years ago. The letters of his signature are made with considerable of a flourish and are heavily shaded. Upper right, H. B. Lehman. Lower center, sample of his penmanship, showing best handwriting of the present time and illustrating what is taught in the public schools. There is slight difference in the formation of small letters. The greatest difference is in the formation of the capitals. Below, a school boy learning to write. Extreme left of page, Thomas Jefferson and a copy of the concluding words of the Declaration of Independence, which was written by him with a quill.

Jefferson was the most rapid penman in the Colonies. His signature can be found near the center of the group of signatures below the Declaration. Few of the names are well written, but they doubtless show the writing ability of the Revolutionary period. Lower left is portrait of Gen. U. S. Grant, and a copy of his letter written to the Commander at Fort Donelson demanding immediate and unconditional surrender. Grant's penmanship can be taken as a type of the Civil War period. A distinct type of handwriting is that of Thomas A. Edison. His portrait is shown at the lower left corner of the group, together with his very legible style of handwriting.

To Teach Perfection.

Miss Florence R. Gilpin, a Charlestown, Mass., girl, has gone to New Orleans to teach the belles of that city how they may become "perfect 36's."

She graduated from a school of physical training in Boston last June. In the South she will have charge of the gymnastic work at the Y. M. C. A.

"The Winged Victory," a perfect a '36' as the world has ever known, is the standard she has taken as her model for New Orleans girls to measure up to.

In her capacity as physical instructor Miss Gilpin expects to have the streets of New Orleans soon filled with the most perfect women that the city has ever known.

New Orleans girls aren't especially strong on athletics, and from all accounts the pretty Charlestown girl has plenty of work out for her. She says the girls there don't walk correctly, stand correctly or dance correctly.

But all this will soon be changed. Dancing is to play a big part in her scheme of things, not the modern one-step, but folk-dancing, which she says is much better for physical development.

Swimming will help too, and as for fencing, Miss Gilpin is an adept at that art, and this is supposed to put the finishing touches on beautification of New Orleans girls.

Indian Land Sale.

A million and a quarter acres of government land are being advertised by the Federal Government for sale at public outcry at various county seat towns. The lands are in the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations. Sale begins November 2, and ends December 2, 1914.

The lands are timber and segregated coal lands. The surface of the coal lands are the very best lands in Oklahoma. They are divided into small tracts suitable to the home builder and are to be sold for one-fourth cash; the second one-fourth in one year at 5 per cent interest, making it possible for any person to get a home, direct from the Federal Government, insuring a perfect title. Most of the tracts are the very best of farming lands, all being near towns, in sight of railroads and smoke stacks from the mines where large payrolls are maintained. Large sections of the land are all well watered, being in

I think the most important line of investigation is the production of Electricity direct from carbon.

Edison